

**REMARKS**

The non-final Office Action mailed October 15, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Reconsideration, withdrawal and allowance of the newly presented claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Initially, it is noted that claims 6 and 14 were rejected as being anticipated by Martin, claim 27 was rejected as being unpatentable over Paugh in view of Martin, and the remaining dependent claims were rejected as being unpatentable over Martin, in view of Oehman, and further in view of Eberhardt. Applicants do not necessarily concede to the substance of these rejections, and reserve the right to present previously presented claims in a continuation application or in this application in the future. However, again without conceding the propriety of these rejections, the previously presented claims have been canceled in favor of newly presented claims 28-35. Full consideration of the newly presented claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the formulation of the newly presented claims and the cancellation of the previous claims, it is believed that a detailed treatment of each of the aspects of the prior rejections is not necessary as those rejections have been rendered moot. However, Applicants provide, for convenience, the discussion below relating to the newly presented claims and the references that were used in the rejections.

Various embodiments of Applicants' invention as described in the specification provide a convenient alignment apparatus for a pump drive system. In particular, an adapter body is used which is interposed between the motor drive system and the pump itself. In practice, operators frequently need to remove a motor drive system for servicing or other purposes. Therefore, it is

desirable to have a quick and easy way to remove the motor drive system. However, it is also very important that the output shaft of the motor drive system be in aligned co-axial radial position with the input shaft of the pump.

Heretofore, in cases of detachable motor drive systems, a relatively laborious alignment process was required where both the pump and the motor were each affixed to a common base. The present invention overcomes this disadvantage by having the pump and adapter be mounted to a base, with the motor drive system simply being mounted to the adapter. Further, the present invention utilizes a quick and easy alignment system in the form of a circular outwardly projecting nose on the motor drive system that mates with a complementary channel of the adapter body.

Turning to the references, it is initially noted that the portion of Martin which is referred to in the Office Action as allegedly corresponding to an adapter body, does not appear to be detachable in the claimed manner. Moreover, it is not seen to have any alignment features. Turning next to Oehman, this reference is not understood to teach or suggest an outwardly projecting nose as recited in the claims. In this regard, it is noted that the outward projection of the nose in the present invention is in the axial direction, that is it projects forwards, towards the opposed face of the adapter body. Oehman, in contrast, has radially projecting flanges (projecting radially outwardly, which is a 90 degree difference from the direction being claimed). Thus, Oehman is not believed to teach or suggest a nose received in a channel in the direction being presently claimed. Eberhardt also is not seen to teach or suggest such a nose or channel. Finally, Paugh is not seen to teach or suggest an intermediate adapter body detachably mounted as is presently claimed.

Another feature of the invention recited in the present claims is that the input shaft of the pump projects through the adapter body without being supported by any bearings in the adapter body. This avoids the need for further bearing alignment. Rather, the alignment caused by the nose in the channel allows the two shafts to be aligned with each other without requiring intermediate bearings or couplings. In contrast, several of the references used in the rejection, for example Paugh and Eberhardt, have bearings located and affixed to the items identified in the Office Action as allegedly corresponding to an adapter body.

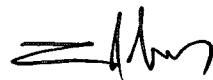
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the application are believed in order. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite issuance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (202) 861-1696.

Any additional extension of time necessary to prevent abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

Respectfully submitted,  
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